

there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks, requiring increased surveillance of critical locations.

Counties, cities and towns in my home State of Vermont and across the U.S. find themselves overwhelmed by increasing homeland security costs required by the Federal Government. Indeed, the National Governors Association estimates that States incurred around \$7 billion in security costs over the past year alone.

As a result, the national threat alerts and other Federal homeland security requirements have become unfunded Federal mandates on our State and local governments. Rutland County Sheriff R.J. Elrick, president of the Vermont Sheriffs' Association, recently wrote to me, "We are in dire need of financial support to keep our personnel trained and equipped to meet the challenges here as home as we continue our vigilant commitment to fight terrorism."

When terrorists strike, first responders are and will always be the first people we turn to for help. We place our lives and the lives of our families and friends in the hands of these officers, trusting that when called upon they will protect and save us.

Just how, without supplying them with the necessary resources, do we expect our Nation's first responders to realistically carry out their duties?

Our State and local law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency personnel are full partners in preventing, investigating and responding to terrorist acts. They need and deserve the full collaboration of the Federal Government to meet these new national responsibilities.

Washington is buzzing about the literally hundreds of billions of additional dollars the President plans to ask Congress to provide for our military services to fight the war on terrorism abroad. The same cannot be said for helping security here at home, which is shamefully overlooked.

For a year and a half I have been working hard to remedy that, with allies like our distinguished Democratic leader and assistant Democratic leader, and New York Senators SCHUMER and CLINTON. As former chair and now ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, I have made it a high priority to evaluate and meet the needs of our first responders.

For these reasons, I commend the Democratic leader for including in the homeland security section of his economic stimulus package the First Responders Partnership Grant Act, which will give our Nation's law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency personnel the resources they need to do their jobs. This legislation will establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to provide \$5 billion nationwide for current fiscal year to support State and local public safety officers in their efforts to protect homeland security and prevent and respond to acts of terrorism.

Similar to the highly successful Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Programs, the First Responder Grants will be made directly to State and local government units for overtime, equipment, training and facility expenses to support our law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency personnel.

The First Responder Grants may be used to pay up to 90 percent of the cost of the overtime, equipment, training or facility. In cases of fiscal hardship, the Department of Homeland Security may waive the local match requirement of 10 percent to provide Federal funds for communities that cannot afford the local match.

In a world shaped by the violent events of September 11, day after day we call upon our public safety officers to remain vigilant. We not only ask them to put their lives at risk in the line of duty, but also, if need be, given their lives to protect us.

If we take time to listen to our Nation's State and local public safety partners, they will tell us that they welcome the challenge to join in our national mission to protect our homeland security. But we cannot ask our firefighters, emergency personnel, and law enforcement officers to assume these new national responsibilities without also providing new Federal support.

The First Responders Partnership Grant Act will provide the necessary Federal support for our State and public safety officers to serve as full partners in the fight to protect our homeland security. We need our first responders for the security and the life-saving help they bring to our communities. All they ask is for the tools they need to do their jobs for us. And for the sake of our own security, that is not too much to ask.

I commend Senator DASCHLE for his leadership, and hope that the Senate will soon consider this desperately-needed economic stimulus package.

#### EXPENDITURES OF COMMITTEES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 66, which was submitted earlier today by Senators LOTT and DODD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 66) authorizing expenditures by committees of the Senate for the periods March 1, 2003, through September 30, 2003, October 1, 2003, through September 30, 2004, and October 1, 2004, through February 28, 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to recon-

sider be laid upon the table without any intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 66) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### 2004 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, today, thousands of American athletes are training for the ultimate goal of participating in the 2004 summer Olympic Games in Athens Greece. Americans will have to wait until next summer to applaud their efforts, but we can start applauding another Olympic star today—Nadia Weinberg.

A Michigan native, Ms. Weinberg is a member of the Orchestra of Athens and she deserves a gold medal for her beautiful voice and her commitment to helping those who are less fortunate than she.

In order to celebrate the games' return to Greece, the Orchestra of Athens and Ms. Weinberg will conduct a world tour including a 15-city tour in America. They will visit New York City, Washington D.C., Boston, and Detroit to name a few. Each concert will benefit a number of charitable organizations: children's abuse centers, college scholarship funds, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, and children's hospitals. Ms. Weinberg and the Orchestra of Athens are using their gift of music to help spread the goodwill of the Olympic Games here in America and around the world.

We can all be proud that Ms. Weinberg is representing her country with such grace. She has performed in music halls around the world, impressed audiences in Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and filled the Rotunda of the Capitol with her voice. Each performance shows that the arts have always been a bridge of understanding between cultures.

I can think of no finer American—one who is dedicated to helping others, committed to the arts, and determined to encourage goodwill around the world—than Ms. Weinberg. We are proud of her accomplishments and her participation in this endeavor with the Orchestra of Athens, and we are honored that she is representing the United States around the world. •

##### HONORING MARION HIGH SCHOOL

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, on April 26, 2003, more than 1,200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, DC to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about